

Message Text

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LIMDIS

USADB

PASS TREASURY FOR BUSHNELL/ZINMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, VS

SUBJECT: ADB ANNUAL MEETING; VIETNAM ISSUE

REF: (A) 75 MANILA 7731, (B) 75 MANILA 7765

1. KOREAN DIRECTOR, WHO ALSO REPRESENTS REPUBLIC OF CHINA (ROC) AND VIETNAM, BELIEVES THAT VIETNAM IS LIKELY TO SEND DELEGATION TO ADB MEETING JAKARTA EVEN THOUGH NEITHER HE NOR ADB HAVE YET TO RECEIVE ANSWER TO HIS LETTER OR TO BANK'S ROUTINE NOTIFICATION OF ANNUAL MEETING.

2. KOREAN DIRECTOR BELIEVES THIS SITUATION COULD PRESENT TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE FIRST IS POSSIBILITY OF SPEECH BY VIETNAM GOVERNOR. ADB PRESIDENT HAS AGREED WITH KOREAN DIRECTOR THAT HE (PRESIDENT) WOULD REQUEST ADB SECRETARY TO GREET VIETNAM GOVERNOR UPON ARRIVAL IN JAKARTA, SEEK TO OBTAIN ADVANCE COPY OF SPEECH IF AVAILABLE AND, IF NECESSARY, ADVISE VIETNAM GOVERNOR THAT ADB GOVERNOR SPEECHES SHOULD NOT INCLUDE POLITICAL PASSAGES BUT SHOULD FOCUS ON FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC

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DEVELOPMENTS AND ON BANK POLICIES AND OPERATIONS.

KOREAN DIRECTOR WOULD ALSO INTEND TO MEET WITH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION UPON ARRIVAL IN JAKARTA. HE HAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT USUAL GROUP MEETING OF THREE DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO ANNUAL MEETING HAS NOT BEEN PLANNED.

3. KOREAN DIRECTOR SAID HIS SECOND PROBLEM IS WHETHER, IF REQUESTED BY VIETNAMESE GOVERNOR, HE SHOULD ACCEPT A VIETNAMESE ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FOR PRESENT VACANT POSITION. PREVIOUS VIETNAMESE ALTERNATE, WHOSE TERM ENDED MAY 31, 1975, SUBSEQUENTLY DEPARTED MANILA AND ACCEPTED STAFF APPOINTMENT WITH IMF. KOREAN DIRECTOR REQUESTED US VIEWS AND POSITION ON HIS POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF VIETNAMESE ALTERNATE. KOREAN DIRECTOR FEELS THAT VIETNAMESE MAY WISH TO ESTABLISH CLAIM AS SUCCESSOR MEMBER GOVT BEFORE NATIONAL ELECTIONS ON APRIL 25 TO UNIFY SOUTH VIETNAM WITH NORTH VIETNAM, A NON-MEMBER COUNTRY. KOREAN DIRECTOR SAID THAT ROC GOVERNOR TO ADB, THE THIRD MEMBER OF GROUP, OPPOSES APPOINTMENT OF VIETNAMESE ALTERNATE BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IF KOREAN GOVERNMENT DISAGREED. KOREAN DIRECTOR SAID HE HAD ORIGINALLY BELIEVED HE WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT VIETNAMESE ALTERNATE IF REQUESTED BY VIETNAMESE GOVERNOR SINCE VIETNAM WOULD STILL BE MEMBER. HE AGREED THAT HE COULD ALSO DELAY APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE SINCE HE WOULD NEED TO CONSULT WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP. DELAY BEYOND UNIFICATION DATE MIGHT THEN CREATE NEED FOR LEGAL REVIEW OF VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP STATUS BY BANK.

4. ADB PRESIDENT SAID THAT REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF BANK RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM WOULD REQUIRE A REVIEW, VISITS TO NEW GOVERNMENT AND ASSURANCES BY NEW GOVT. TO MEET RESPONSIBILITY OF BANK MEMBERSHIP AS OUTLINED IN REFTELS. ADB PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT THIS COULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME.

5. ALTHOUGH VIETNAM ISSUE APPEARS TO BE ADEQUATELY COVERED, USADB WOULD APPRECIATE US VIEWS TO ANSWER QUERY FROM KOREAN DIRECTOR.

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